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INTRO: JAPANESE T.V. SATELLITE TO BE LAUNCHED BY U.S.

AN EXPERIMENTAL JAPANESE SATELLITE DESIGNED TO BEAM TELEVISION PROGRAMS DIRECTLY INTO HOME TV RECEIVERS WILL BE LAUNCHED ON THURSDAY AT CAPE CANAVERAL, FLORIDA, BY THE U.S. SPACE AGENCY. VOA CORRESPONDENT RUSSELL SPLANE HAS DETAILS IN THIS REPORT FROM MIAMI:

VOICE:

THE BOX-SHAPED SATELLITE, WEIGHING JUST OVER SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY-SEVEN KILOGRAMS, IS TO BE SENT INTO SPACE ATOP A U.S. DELTA ROCKET. IF THE SHOT IS SUCCESSFUL, THE SATELLITE WILL BE PLACED INTO AN ELLIPTICAL TRANSFER ORBIT. TWENTY-SIX AND A HALF HOURS AFTER LAUNCH A MOTOR ATTACHED TO THE SPACECRAFT WILL BE FIRED TO SEND THE SATELLITE INTO EARTH-SYNCHRONOUS ORBIT, 35,806 KILOMETERS OVER THE EQUATOR AT ABOUT 138 DEGREES EAST LONGITUDE. IT WILL THEN DRIFT TO ITS FINAL POSITION AT 110 DEGREES EAST LONGITUDE OVER THE ISLAND OF BORNEO.

THE NEW SATELLITE IS A PROJECT OF JAPAN'S NATIONAL SPACE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY. IT IS TECHNICALLY NAMED A MEDIUM-SCALE BROADCASTING SATELLITE FOR EXPERIMENTAL PURPOSES--OR B-S-E FOR SHORT. THE SPACECRAFT WILL TEST NEW METHODS OF TRANSMITTING HIGH QUALITY COLOR TELEVISION ECONOMICALLY TO THE JAPANESE ISLANDS AND OKINAWA. JAPAN'S PRESENT TV NETWORK -- ALTHOUGH IT COVERS NINETY-SEVEN PERCENT OF THE NATION'S FOUR MAIN ISLANDS -- IS NOT ECONOMICAL IN THE REMOTE ISLANDS OR IN THE COUNTRY'S MOUNTAIN REGIONS. AND IN JAPAN'S LARGE CITIES, REFLECTIONS OF TALL BUILDINGS OFTEN INTERFERE WITH TV RECEPTION.

BECAUSE OF ITS HIGH POWER, THE B-S-E WILL BE ABLE TO TRANSMIT DIRECTLY TO INDIVIDUAL, LOW-COST HOME TV SETS EVEN IN RAINY WEATHER. IF SUCCESSFUL, THE SATELLITE SYSTEM WILL BE OF SPECIAL

IMPORTANCE TO JAPANESE WHO LIVE ON THE MANY OFFSHORE ISLANDS OR INACCESSIBLE MOUNTAIN AREAS WHERE EXTENSION OF THE CURRENT DOMESTIC TV SERVICE IS NOT ECONOMICAL.

(OPT) THE B-S-E WAS BUILT IN THE UNITED STATES BY THE GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY UNDER CONTRACT TO TOKYO SHIBAURA ELECTRIC COMPANY. ALSO SPONSORING OR PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM ARE THE JAPANESE BROADCASTING CORPORATION, THE JAPANESE MINISTRY OF POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND THE RADIO RESEARCH LABORATORIES OF JAPAN. (END OPT)

THE LAUNCH VEHICLE WILL BE A THREE-STAGE DELTA ROCKET. THE LAUNCHING WILL BE THE ONE HUNDRED FORTIETH FOR THE DELTA ROCKET WHICH HAS ACHIEVED AN IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE RECORD OF MORE THAN NINETY PERCENT SUCCESS. THE FIRST TWO STAGES CONTAIN LIQUID FUEL, THE THIRD STAGE SOLID FUEL. IN ADDITION, THE DELTA CARRIES NINE STRAP-ON SOLID FUEL BOOSTER MOTORS TO PROVIDE THE INITIAL THRUST AT LIFT-OFF.

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